

Technical Abbreviations

Term..... Abbreviation

acre-foot acre-ft
 actual cubic feet per secondacfs
 alternating current ac or AC
 air massAM
 air mass 1.0..... AM1
 ampere A
 Angstrom unit..... Å
 ante meridiem (morning)..... a.m.
 antireflectiveAR
 atmosphere..... atm
 atomic percent at. %
 atomic weight at. wt
 atto a

bar b
 millibar mb
 barrel bbl
 base (genetics)..... b
 thousand bases kb
 base pairs..... bp
 BaumeBe
 becquerel Bq
 biological oxygen demand BOD
 boiling point bp
 British thermal unit..... Btu
 bushel bu

calorie..... cal
 candela cd
 cent..... 4
 centi..... c
 centigram cg
 centiliter..... cL
 centimeter cm
 Chapter (not used in text) Chap.
 chemical vapor deposition CVD
 circa (about)..... ca.
 coefficient of lift..... CL
 coefficient of performance..... COP
 concentrated (tables only)..... conc.
 confer (compare)..... cf.
 cosinecos
 coulomb..... C
 counts per minute..... cpm
 cubic centimetercm³

Term..... Abbreviation

cubic feet per minute cfm or ft³/min
 cubic feet per second cfs or ft³/s
 cubic footft³
 cubic inchin.³
 cubic meter m³
 cubic millimeter mm³
 cubic yard..... cu yd or yd³
 current-voltage..... IV
 cycles per second (hertz)..... Hz

day..... d
 deci..... d
 decibeldB
 degree (angular).....E, deg
 degree Celsius.....EC
 degree Fahrenheit EF
 degree RankineER
 deka..... da
 diameter (tables only) diam.
 direct current dc or DC
 dissolved oxygenDO
 dollar \$
 thousands of dollars.....\$K
 millions of dollars (tables only) \$M
 year of dollars..... year \$ (1992 \$)
 domestic hot water..... DHW

electromagnetic interference.....ENU
 electromagnetic unit..... EMU
 electromotive force emf
 electron volt..... eV
 electrostatic unit..... ESU
 equation(s).....Eq(s)
 equivalent weight.....equiv. wt
 et ali(i,ae) (and others).....et al.
 exempli gratia (for example)e.g.
 et cetera etc.
 exponentialexp
 experiment (tables only)..... expt.

farad F
 feet per minute.....ft/min
 feet per second..... ft/s
 femto f

Term..... Abbreviation

fill factorFF
foot	ft
foot-pound	ft-lb
foot-second	ft-s
freezing point	fp
fiscal year	fy
fiscal year 1993.....	FY 1993
gallon	gal
gallons per day	gal/d (or gpd)
gallons per minute	gal/min (or gpm)
gallons per second.....	gal/s (or gps)
gallons per year	gal/yr (or gpy)
gas (in chemical formula).....	g
giga	G
grains per second	gr/s
gram.....	g
gram-atom.....	g-atom
gravity (force of).....	g
gray	Gy
gross national product	GNP
hectare.....	ha
hecto	h
henry.....	H
hertz	Hz
horsepower	hp
hour	h
hundred.....	C
id est (that is).....	i.e.
inch	in.
inch-pound	in.-lb
inches per second.....	in./s
industrial process heat	IPH
infrared	ir or IR
inside diameter	ID
(use abbreviation only in such phrases as 3-cm-ID tube)	
international unit	IU
joule	J
kelvin.....	K
kilo.....	k
kilocalorie	kcal
kilocycles per second (kilohertz)	kHz
kilogram.....	kg

Term..... Abbreviation

kilograms per cubic meter.....	kg/m ³
kilograms per second.....	kg/s
kilometer	km
kilometers per second	km/s
kilopascal.....	kPa
kilovolt	kV
kilovolt-ampere	kVA
kilowatt.....	kW
kilowatt-hour	kWh
langley	no abbreviation
liquid (in chemical formula)	R
liter	L
local area network.....	LAN
logarithm (common).....	log
logarithm (natural).....	ln
lumen	lm
lux	lx
maximum (tables only)	max
mean sea level.....	msl
mega (million)	M
megacycles per second (megahertz)	Mhz
megavolt.....	MV
megawatt	MW
megawatt electric	MW _e
megawatt thermal.....	MW _t
melting point.....	mp
metal-organic chemical vapor deposition.....	MOCVD
meter	m
meter-kilogram	m-kg
micro	μ
microampere.....	μA
microliter	μL
micrometer	μm
microvolt	μV
microwatt.....	μW
mile	mi
miles per hour.....	mph
miles per hour per second.....	mph/s
milli	m
milliampere	mA
milligram	mg
milligram percent.....	mg %
milliliter	mL
millimeter	mm
million (mega)	M

Term..... Abbreviation

million Btu	Mbtu*
milliradian.....	mrad
millivolt.....	mV
milliwatt.....	MW
minimum (tables only)	min.
minute.....	min
mole.....	mol
mole percent.....	mol %
molecular weight.....	mol wt
moles per liter (molar).....	M
month (tables only)	mo
municipal solid waste	MSW
nano.....	n
nanogram	ng
nanometer	nm
nanosecond.....	ns
newton.....	Ns
normal pressure and temperature.....	NPT
nuclear magnetic resonance	nmr or NMR
number.....	no.
oersted	oe
ohm.....	Ω
open-circuit voltage.....	V _{OC}
ounce	oz
ounce-foot.....	oz-ft
ounce-inch	oz-in.
outside diameter (see inside diameter)	OD
page(s)	p(p).
parts per billion.....	ppb
parts per millions.....	ppm
pascal.....	Pa
peak watt.....	W _p
per.....	/
percent	%
peta	P
peta	P
photovoltaics.....	PV
pico.....	p
post meridiem (after noon).....	p.m.
pound.....	lb
pound-foot.....	lb-ft
pound-inc.....	lb-in

Term..... Abbreviation

pounds per square foot	lb/ft ²
pounds per square inch.....	psi
pounds per square inch absolute.....	psia
pounds per square inch gauge.....	psig
public law.....	P.L.
radian	rad
reference(s).....	Ref(s).
request for proposals	RFP
research and development.....	R&D
research, development and demonstration	RD&D
revolutions per minute.....	rpm
revolutions per second.....	rps
root-mean-square.....	rms
safe operating procedure.....	SOP
second (time).....	s
Section (reports).....	Sec.
Section (laws).....	'
short-circuit current	I _{sc}
siemens.....	S
sievert.....	Sv
simultaneous saccharification and fermentation.....	SSF
sine.....	sin
solid (in chemical formula).....	s
species (sing.).....	sp.
species (pl.)	spp.
specific heat.....	C _p
square centimeter.....	cm ²
square foot.....	ft ²
square inch	in. ²
square kilometer	km ²
square meter	m ²
square millimeter	mm ²
standard (tables only).....	std.
standard cubic feet.....	scf
standard temperature and pressure.....	STP
steradian	sr
synthetic natural gas.....	SNG
tangent.....	tan
temperature (tables only)	temp.
tera.....	T
tesla	T
thousand (used with money only).....	K
thousand (kilo).....	k

*10⁶ Btu is preferred. Never use MMBtu.

<i>Term</i>	<i>Abbreviation</i>
ton (metric)(10 ³ kg)*	t
torr	torr
ultraviolet.....	uv or UV
unit.....	U
variety	var.
versus (tables only)	vs.
videlicet (namely).....	viz.
volt.....	V
volume percent.....	vol %
volume per volume	v/v

<i>Term</i>	<i>Abbreviation</i>
watt.....	W
(peak) w	W _p
watt electric	W _e
watt-hour	Wh
watt thermal	W _t
weber	Wb
weight.....	wt
weight percent.....	wt %
weight per weight	w/w
yard.....	yd
year.....	yr

*Clarify whether a ton is English or metric.
Avoid using the abbreviation.